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PARLIAMENT'S VOTE OF THANKS TO THE FORCES



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THE RESOLUTION.

That the thanks of this House be given to the Officers, Petty Officers, and Men of the Navy for their faithful watch upon the seas during more than three years of ceaseless danger and stress, while guarding our shores and protecting from the attacks of a barbarous foe the commerce upon which the victory of the Allied cause depends.

That the thanks of this House be given to the Officers, Non-commissioned Officers, and Men of the British Armies in the field, and also to the Women in the Medical and other Services auxiliary thereto, for their unfailing courage and endurance in defending the right, amid sufferings and hardships unparalleled in the history of war, and for their loyal readiness to continue the work to which they have set their hands until the liberty of the world is secure.

That the thanks of this House be accorded to the gallant troops from the Dominions Overseas, from India, and from the Crown Colonies, who have travelled many thousands of miles to share with their comrades from the British Isles in the sacrifices and triumphs of the battlefield and to take their full part in the struggle for human freedom.

That the thanks of this House be accorded to the Officers and Men of the Mercantile Marine for the devotion to duty with which they have continued to carry the vital supplies to the Allies through seas infested with deadly perils.

That this House doth acknowledge with grateful admiration the valour and devotion of those who have offered their lives in the service of their country, and tenders its sympathy to their relatives and friends in the sorrows they have sustained.

With the Compliments
of
Professor W. Macneile Dixon
(University of Glasgow).

8, BUCKINGHAM GATE,
LONDON, S.W. 1,
ENGLAND.

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PARLIAMENT'S VOTE OF THANKS TO THE FORCES

HOUSE OF LORDS

EARL CURZON OF KEDLESTON.

EARL CURZON OF KEDLESTON (Lord President of the Council) : In dealing with the achievements of the Army and Navy in a war that has lasted over three and a-quarter years, I have a rather long road to travel.

In one respect this Motion has an excellent precedent. This country has never been slow to acknowledge the valour and the heroism of its soldiers and sailors in the operations of war, and Parliament has been the natural and inevitable vehicle by which the grateful tribute of the nation has always been conveyed. Motions in themselves not dissimilar from this have been moved after every great war in our history ; I may instance the Napoleonic War, the Crimean War and the South African Campaign. But, in one respect this motion is without precedent, for it is not moved in both Houses of Parliament to-day at the close of the war, nor as a sequel to the successful conclusion of peace. It is moved in the course of the war, while the war itself is approaching its culminating point, before the end is at all clearly in sight.

The justification for this novel procedure might, I think, be found in the scale and character of this war, itself without precedent, if not in duration, at any rate in the range and diversity of its theatres, in the strength of the Armies and

Navies who are engaged, in the magnitude of the resources that are involved and the operations that have been undertaken; above all, in the nature of the issues which are at stake. Other countries have fought, and other wars have been waged, to resist aggression, to defend national honour, to save the existence of a people, or religion, or race, but there has been no war before in which the whole world has arisen to ward off a felon blow directed at human freedom. Such a war surely does not require us to await its termination before the nation which sits in comfort and ease at home expresses its gratitude to those who have been, and still are, its saviours.

But there is another and a better reason, I think, for moving at this moment. We want our soldiers and sailors, the men and women who are upholding our arms in this great struggle, to know, as they enter the fourth winter of the war and as fresh sacrifices lie before them, that we do not forget what they have suffered and endured up to this moment. We want to tell them, here and now, that our hearts are filled with pride and admiration and sympathy for their incomparable service, for their magnificent devotion, for the losses, the incredible losses, which they have sustained. And I think that there is something peculiarly appropriate in making this Motion in this week—the week which three years ago witnessed the supreme achievement of the first battle of Ypres, one of the great battles of history, where the gallantry and heroism of our small Army foiled the enemy and helped to save Europe and civilisation.

One other preliminary observation I ask leave to make. If I do not descant this afternoon on the bravery and heroism of our Allies, on their prodigious exertions, on their sufferings, in many cases so much greater than ours—and here, in passing, may I say one word of sympathy to our gallant Ally across the Alps in the blow that has fallen upon her?—it is not because those considerations are absent from our minds, but rather because it is a domestic occasion on which we meet in Parliament to-day, as if we were present at some great

family gathering, to celebrate the deeds and to condole with the sufferings of our own people, subjects of our King, citizens of our Empire, who have fought and died, and are fighting and dying at this moment, for all that we and they hold most dear. Other opportunities will occur of offering testimony to the nations and peoples and Armies of Allied nations who are fighting with us for the freedom of the world.

THE NAVY.

The first paragraph of this Motion, according to precedent, gives the place of honour to the senior Service, the Navy; but there is another paragraph a little further down which is without precedent, and which includes the officers and men of the Mercantile Marine, whose services are so closely interwoven with those of the Navy that I ask your permission not to separate them in my remarks. I am not sure that the Navy has had full justice done to it in the three years of war. Because the conflict on the seas has not been marked by any great and crowning achievement like Trafalgar or the Nile, because the spectacular incidents in connection with the naval warfare have been few, because it has not been found possible to defeat in open battle an enemy who shrinks from battle except with a palpably inferior foe, who denies the challenge that is ever open to him, and who, when he is caught and engaged, flees from the crisis to the protection of his mine fields and fixed defences, it has sometimes been unjustly assumed that the Navy has been untrue to the old traditions which have made it the glory of this country and have given us the mastery of the seas. Such an imputation would, as I say, in my opinion be most unjust. Throughout this war the Navy has done something much more important than sitting still and waiting for dramatic victories over an enemy who, since August, 1916, has never left his harbours to enter into open conflict on the Northern Seas. It is the Navy that has made the continuation of the war possible from month to month and from day to day.

FREEDOM OF THE SEAS.

We hear a great deal of the phrase "the freedom of the seas" on the lips of our enemy. But in the German conception of this phrase it means that the seas are to be freed for his advantage from the superb predominance, the ubiquitous and disinterested vigilance, of the British Fleet. There has been freedom of the seas. With the exception of the waters to which the German submarines penetrate and where special precautions have to be taken, these seas have been free for three years to the commerce, not only of our Allies, but of every neutral country. They have only been denied to the common enemy of mankind. This has been the incomparable service of the British Navy. Were it not for the Grand Fleet, shrouded in the misty recesses of the North Sea, and for the other squadrons of the Navy operating on every sea and every ocean, could the war last one hour, could we feed our people, could we transport our troops to all the theatres of war and supply them with arms and munitions, could we carry coal and wheat to the Allies, could we even protect our own shores? No; the Navy is the great instrument whose dynamic force, hidden but never absent, enables all this to be done.

When the war broke out the first duty of His Majesty's Navy was to clear the seas of the surface craft of the enemy. I need not recall the stages by which the battleships, the armed cruisers, and the merchant fleet of the Germans disappeared. At the present moment there only remains one small German merchant boat, converted into an armed raider, which is not accounted for, and for three months it has not been heard of. It is a solitary speck on the boundless ocean, and for all we know, and hope, it is probably at this moment at the bottom of the sea. Whether we contemplate an ocean swept free from enemy craft, or the enemy contained in his own waters, or our own shores secure from invasion and exposed only to an occasional surprise raid which is only remarkable for its impotence, or whether we look at the wide

ocean on which the ships of the world move to and fro, in spite of the submarine menace, like the shuttles of some gigantic loom, carrying the resources of war to all the theatres of war, you equally trace the omnipresence and you find the protecting hand of the British Navy. When I tell you that the Navy has, since the beginning of the war, transported 13,000,000 human beings, out of whom only 3,500 have been lost—2,700 by the action of the enemy, 550 in hospital ships—and in addition 2,000,000 horses and mules, 500,000 vehicles, 25,000,000 tons of explosives and supplies, 51,000,000 tons of oil and fuel for the Fleets and Armies of ourselves and our Allies, you get some idea of the magnitude of the operations which the Fleet has undertaken.

And, if we narrow somewhat our field of vision, when I tell you that 30,000 tons of stores and supplies and 7,000 personnel are carried daily to France, that 570 steamers of 1,750,000 tons are continually employed in the service of carrying troops and stores to the Armies in France and to the Forces in the various theatres of war, again you will realise the magnitude of the task and the immensity of the strain. There are some occasions on which figures are more eloquent than words, and this is, I think, one of them.

This great task has not been achieved without an expansion of the Navy without parallel in the history of our country, or, indeed, of any country. In 1914 the Navy Estimate provided for a personnel in the Royal Navy of 145,000 officers and men. The strength is now 430,000. And it has been built up not by drawing on the original reserves, but by recruitment from the sea-faring population and volunteers from all parts of the Empire. The total tonnage of the Fleet employed in naval services after mobilisation in September, 1914, was 4,000,000 tons; now it is 6,000,000 tons. This work has been accomplished in circumstances that call, I think, for special notice. In the case of the Navy the task of preparation is not followed by the excitement of certain conflict. The sailor does not, like the soldier, leap over the parapet to charge at a visible foe. For months at a time

he never sees the foe at all. When the crisis comes, it comes in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, and the issues of life and death, of victory and defeat, are decided in a few minutes. For the rest of the time the task of the Navy is monotonous, arduous, sometimes obscure. It is a work of waiting, waiting, waiting. It is impossible to exaggerate the strain which such experiences must impose upon every faculty both of mind and body.

There is, perhaps, one respect in which the fighting ships of the Navy cannot complain of lack of excitement or adventure. We hear a great deal of the German submarines and of their campaign of organised and brutal destruction. People seem to forget that we have submarines also. I am not going to give their numbers; still less am I going to say where they are or what they are doing. But in the pursuit of legitimate warfare our submarines have made 40 successful attacks on enemy warships, and 270 successful attacks on other vessels. And if I may turn to one particular incident or group of incidents, who can forget the superb courage of those submarine commanders in the Dardanelles, who crept through the stormy currents and the hidden dangers of the Narrows, made their way into the Sea of Marmora, and for weeks at a time preyed upon a helpless and bewildered enemy?

AUXILIARY SERVICES.

Equally wonderful is the record of the auxiliary naval services, which have been expanded to an extraordinary degree to meet the changes that have occurred in maritime warfare by the development of the mine and the submarine. I allude more especially to the minesweepers and the patrol vessels. Over 3,300 vessels are now engaged on these duties. At the beginning of the war there were 12. They are out in all weathers, day and night, searching and sweeping for mines, patrolling the coastal routes, escorting merchant traffic, hunting the enemy submarines. It is impossible to imagine a more arduous or a more dangerous duty. Never a day but

they may be in contact with a mine or torpedo; never a week but some of them are sent to the bottom; yet in all this time of stress not a single man has asked to be relieved, and if one man is lost scores leap forward to take his place.

I could detain you this afternoon for hours with tales of personal gallantry; but we are here to-day to place the crown of glory on the heads, not of individuals, but of the Navy as a whole. The spirit which animates all our officers and men, whether on the sea or under the sea, is to be found in the words of the skipper of a trawler attacked by the gun-fire of a German submarine. Though armed only with a 3-pounder gun and outranged by her opponent, she refused to haul down her flag even when the skipper had both his legs shot off and most of the crew were killed or wounded. "Throw the confidential books overboard and throw me after them," the skipper said; and, refusing to leave his ship when the few survivors took the boats, he went down with her.

THE BLOCKADE.

There is another aspect of the work of the Navy upon which I must speak for one moment, and that is the story of the Blockade. We hear the Blockade a good deal criticised and even attacked in the newspapers. I invite you to think for a moment of what a Blockade means to those who take part in it. Patrolling the ocean gateway 600 miles in width from Scotland to Iceland and Greenland, these vessels are exposed to incessant gales and to the perils of submarines. Day and night it is their duty to stop and to board the ships that may be taking supplies to the enemy. The efficiency of the service may be gathered from the fact that, early in 1915, 256 out of 1,400 ships managed to slip through the patrol; at the end of 1916 only 60 out of 3,000 passed without being intercepted. The large majority of the men who are engaged in this work were before the war in the Mercantile Marine.

THE MERCANTILE MARINE.

I said just now that I would ask leave to say a word or two about the Mercantile Marine and the amazing service that it has rendered in every theatre of war. What has this service been? In the first place, these men have provided a large part of those auxiliary services to which I have been referring—the mine-sweepers, the patrol boats, the Fleet colliers, and the blockade vessels. Then steadily, in spite of constant danger, they have kept up the flow of British imports to this country, conveying to these shores the food on which we live, the wool and cotton by which we are clothed, the raw material of every industry. Equally the Mercantile Marine has been the carrier and purveyor and feeder of our Allies. But I am not sure that its most wonderful achievement has not been the continuous service which it maintained across the Channel and to the various theatres of war. Week in and week out, in all weathers, proceeding at full speed in the fog and the darkness, navigating without lights, swept by heavy seas, they have carried the soldiers to their destinations and brought back the wounded to these shores. Think of the responsibility that lies upon the captain of such a vessel. Always on the bridge, sleepless for nights at a time, he knows that on his vigilance depend the lives of thousands of the soldiers of his Sovereign. Remember that both for him and for his men there may spring at any moment from the ocean the menace of sudden death—the rush of a torpedo, the firing of a gun, and the vessel sinks down into the great deeps and is lost. Then follows the tumult of evacuation, the agony of the boat drifting on the stormy seas for days and nights at a time with the most precarious chance of rescue. Many vessels in this way have been torpedoed several times over. The lives of the men of the Mercantile Marine that have been lost number 8,000. But never a man has been found who refused to sail. This is a record that brings a lump to the throat and tears to the eyes, and it has invested with an everlasting renown the name and service of the British Mercantile Marine.

THE ARMY.

I pass now to the paragraphs of this Motion which relate to the Army and the service which has been rendered by it in so many parts of the world. It is notorious that we are not a military nation. It is a truism that at the outbreak of war we were unprepared. We had only an exiguous Army of 100,000 ready for the field, though this was an Army of superlative quality. But now, after three years of war, we have slowly forged the most powerful military weapon that is to be found in the armoury of any of the Allies. We have produced an Army of 3,000,000—in spirit, in fighting quality, and in endurance second to none, if it does not surpass any that has ever been known in the history of our race.

Observe the steps by which this has been accomplished. In August, 1914, there was, as I said, the Expeditionary Force of six Infantry Divisions and one Cavalry Division, with a total of 160,000 men. Four of these Divisions and the Cavalry Division were rushed across the Channel in the opening days of the war and met on landing with an experience that has rarely befallen any force in the opening days of a campaign. Marching, as they had to do, 150 miles in eleven days, sustaining heavy losses, confronted by an enemy of superior numbers and equipment, they fought the immortal Battle of Mons—a retreat more glorious than a victory. This was the first occasion on which the British Forces saved France and Europe, and, I think we may say, civilisation itself. Then, when two more Divisions had gone across, this Army, shattered but unbroken, decimated but undismayed, turned on the enemy and, assisted by our brave Allies the French, drove him back over the Marne and the Aisne.

Then we come to the first Battle of Ypres, from the middle of October to the latter part of November, 1914, one of the greatest feats of endurance in British military history. One more Infantry Division had been added, and the two Indian Divisions came up in the nick of time. In that battle

the pressure was so great, extending along a front of 40 miles, that cooks and transport drivers had to be put in the line. The enemy had a great superiority in heavy guns and armament, but we were saved by the magnificent fighting power and desperate courage of our officers, non-commissioned officers, and men, and for the second time the danger was rolled back. The hero of that battle, who takes his name from the scene of his glory, sits in this House. We honour him, and the nation honours him, and his men, for what they did in these days of destiny, when for the second time Europe was saved. When this battle was over the original Expeditionary Force had practically ceased to exist. Three months of heavy fighting, between August and November, had left very few of the original Force in the ranks, and the units had been almost entirely filled with fresh drafts. No sacrifice ever recorded in history has obtained better results than theirs. Great as the subsequent achievements of the troops have been, it is generally recognised that, both in the magnitude of the results they obtained and the trial of endurance they faced, these seven Regular Divisions will hold a unique place in the annals of their countrymen. The traditions of duty and discipline which inspired them have been handed down to those who come after them, and are a living force in our Armies to-day.

THE TERRITORIAL ARMY.

In 1915 new forces began to enter the field. Already a few picked Territorial battalions and a few Yeomanry regiments had shared with the old Regulars the glory of the first Battle of Ypres. But with the beginning of 1915 the value of the Territorial Forces began to be felt. This country owes a deep and lasting debt of gratitude to the Territorial Army. Raised for home defence, often disparaged, many times the victims of sneers, its members were ready to assume any other duty placed upon them. They undertook, and are carrying out now, the defence of outlying portions of the Empire, thereby relieving Regular

troops for the Front. The first time the Territorial Army engaged in heavy fighting was in the second Ypres Battle in 1915, and at Festubert in May. Though comparatively untried, their conduct was beyond all praise, and their stubborn resistance gave us time to organise measures of defence, bring up reinforcements, and finally close the road to Calais. Since then the Territorial Army, now one-fourth of the entire Expeditionary Force, has shared in almost every important engagement in France and Flanders. It has also fought gallantly in Gallipoli, Salonika, Egypt, and Mesopotamia.

Now we come to the time—in May, 1915—when the first Division of the New Army was despatched to France. The organisation of this New Army, by which a large number of Divisions were raised, trained, equipped, and placed in the field in the course of about nine months, is an achievement which only the late Lord Kitchener's great prestige, energy, and determination could have rendered possible; nor could it ever have been carried out had it not been for the patriotism and zeal of the people of this country. No greater self-sacrifice has been displayed in this war than by those who compose the New Army, and who were the first to answer their country's call. Thus we see that we have passed through three periods of military organisation in the time to which I have been referring—first, the days of the old Expeditionary Force that went out at the beginning of August, 1914; secondly, the new and enlarged Expeditionary Force, with the addition of the Indian Regiments and the Colonial and Territorial Forces, which fought through 1915; thirdly, the appearance of the New Army upon the scene in the middle and latter parts of that year. But all these differences were presently obliterated when, with the introduction of compulsory military service in this country at the end of 1915, the distinction between Regulars and New Army and Territorials disappeared, and the Army became for the first time a National Army. During the two years that have since elapsed every Division of that Army has

been engaged in the great happenings across the Channel—of the Somme, of Arras, and Ypres—and it would be impossible to select any portion for special praise.

GALLIPOLI.

But I must not forget that there have been other theatres of war in which these troops have fought. Of Gallipoli I shall speak presently when I come to the services of the Australians and New Zealanders. But our Overseas troops were not alone in braving the perils of those inhospitable beaches and those cruel cliffs. Side by side with them fought the troops of the New Army, the Territorials and the Irish and Welsh Divisions. Whether the Dardanelles Expedition was or was not a sound and legitimate venture, whether its abandonment was or was not a prudent and necessary proceeding, it can never be denied that in no theatre of war was greater gallantry and a more heroic spirit displayed. There were many chapters in that heroic but ill-fated epic—the landing on the beaches in the face of a determined enemy, the clinging for months to those desperate slopes, the repeated though futile attempts to advance to the heights, and perhaps not least of all the re-embarkation, almost without loss, under the very eyes of the enemy. When, in later years people visit that melancholy spot they will see the tombstones which record one of the greatest achievements of the British Army.

SALONIKA.

At Salonika the Allied troops, arriving too late to save gallant little Serbia from disaster, have had less hard fighting and fewer opportunities for winning glory than have fallen to the lot of their comrades elsewhere. Nevertheless their work, in which the British contingent under General Milne has played a conspicuous part, has enabled the Serbian Army once again to take its place in the field, and has preserved Greece from the enemy and brought her to our side. A climate malarious in summer and bitterly

cold in winter, and, what the soldier hates still more, long periods of comparative inactivity—these trials our men at Salonika have borne with a spirit fully equal to that of their comrades in more glorious fields.

EGYPT AND PALESTINE.

Egypt has been another field of war where the operations have been important and have played a considerable part in the fortunes of the war. It is such ancient history now that we have almost forgotten that after the evacuation of Gallipoli Egypt was supposed to be in danger, and the Turks launched at least two desperate efforts to dislodge us from the Sinai Peninsula and the Canal. Those attacks were repelled, and the British Army, after rendering the position in Egypt secure, were able to carry out the long-meditated advance, clear Sinai and the Canal, and move forward to the borders of Palestine. There they are at the present moment engaged, and doubtless we shall hear of them again, and that very soon. The Egyptian Campaign has not been without its episodes of hard fighting and personal heroism, but it is as a triumph of scientific organisation that I would specially mention it this afternoon. In the operations that are going on in Palestine every pound of stores, every gallon of water that is drunk by the troops, has to be carried all the way from Egypt across 150 miles of desert. This is a feat that rivals what has been so successfully accomplished in France.

MESOPOTAMIA.

I turn for a moment to Mesopotamia. The Army in Mesopotamia has suffered vicissitudes greater than any which have been experienced in any of the other theatres of war. Starting with the brilliant success of the handful of British and Indian troops in the autumn of 1914, the advance, in the face of great physical and climatic difficulties, almost to the threshold of Baghdad, was presently arrested by misfortune and even by disaster. But, even after this set-back,

the discipline and valour of the troops never wavered, and no finer exhibition of those qualities has ever been given than that which was made by the Force which fought its way back from the field of Ctesiphon to Kut, and then made that heroic defence which will be one of the memorable sieges of history. Then ensued an interval while mistakes were being repaired and recuperation was undertaken, and it was reserved for General Maude and his brave men to retrieve the laurels which had been temporarily lost, and by the capture of the Turkish positions and by their subsequent advance to Baghdad and the occupation of that city, to accomplish one of the greatest feats of the war. Since then General Maude has driven the enemy back to the east and west and north. He has won another notable victory, and his fine generalship and the splendid efficiency of his troops have enabled us to acquire a position which enables the British Force to await the threatened attack of the enemy without any alarm.

As we survey these different scenes of fighting which I have briefly enumerated to you, there are, I think, certain reflections that come to our mind. The first of these is the high level of competence of our commanders in the field. War is a very different thing now from what it was ten years ago. It requires scientific training, a high order of ability, an immense amount of care, forethought, and knowledge such as was undreamed of a few decades ago. I might mention many of our commanders who have excelled in this respect, but I shall, perhaps, not err if I take as a type and model of them all the gallant Field-Marshal who is at present commanding our troops in France. During more than two years Sir Douglas Haig has never wavered, never murmured, never complained, never been despondent. He has gone steadily on with attack after attack and has shown himself a great commander and leader of men.

AWARDS FOR VALOUR.

The second point that I would mention is the extraordinary valour of our officers, non-commissioned officers, and men. Let me give you what I procured from the Departments concerned this morning—the figures of the awards for valour that have been given both to the Army and the Navy. I take first the Army. There have been awarded—

Victoria Crosses	...	...	...	301
Bars to the Victoria Cross	...	...	...	2
D.S.O's	...	...	...	4,558
First Bar	...	...	...	104
Second Bar	...	...	...	4
Military Crosses	...	...	...	14,255
Distinguished Conduct Medal	...	...	...	10,748
First Bar	...	...	...	127
Second Bar	...	...	...	1
Military Medal	...	...	...	39,409

Next I give the figures of the Navy—

Victoria Crosses	...	...	...	28
D.S.O's	...	...	...	390
Bars to the D.S.O.	...	...	...	23
Distinguished Service Cross	...	...	...	766
Bars to that Cross	...	...	...	39
Conspicuous Gallantry Medal	...	...	...	67
Distinguished Service Medal	...	...	...	2,211

I do not envy the man who can read without emotion the records which we see, even when they are couched in official language, of the facts which have won these awards. In the newspapers you read the words, "Awarded the Victoria Cross for most conspicuous bravery." Then there comes, in eight or ten lines of print, a narrative of doings which almost surpass belief, which as time goes on will be enshrined in legend and will become one of the lessons that is taught, and taught with advantage, to future generations of our race.

THE BRITISH SOLDIER.

But is not the great revelation of the war the British soldier himself? In all previous wars the Army has been a class of the nation. Now it is the nation itself. The Army has become in a wonderful degree a microcosm of all classes of our people, reflecting not merely, as it always did, the valour and endurance of our people, but their ideas and ideals, their aspirations, even the culture and the spiritual side of the nation. We see the British soldier, as he has shown himself in this war, a model of cheerful endurance and uncomplaining devotion to duty, seldom in low spirits, possessed of a quaint and irrepressible humour, contemptuous of danger, greedy for self-sacrifice, a tiger in fighting, but chivalrous and humane to the enemy; able to think as well as to act; pondering deeply on the problems and issues of the war; resolved, as his generation has been called upon to pay the price, that he will pay it himself without a murmur, to save posterity from a similar peril. We may well be proud to belong to a race that has produced such men, and to have lived in an age that has been called upon to meet and to surmount such a danger.

THE ARMY CHAPLAINS.

But there are one or two other debts of honour which you would wish to pay this afternoon. May I say one word about the chaplains of every Church and denomination, 2,200 of whom are serving with the Armies in the field, giving the consolations of religion to the living and performing the last rites of the Church over the dead? How gallant and perilous their service has been may be shown by the fact that over 70 have been killed, many wounded, and many others have died from disease, 2 have won the Victoria Cross, 130 have been decorated, and many more have been mentioned in Despatches.

THE MEDICAL SERVICES.

I desire to allude also to the medical officers who have devoted their skill with unwearied assiduity, not merely to the care of the wounded, which is the part of their duty that I dare say most immediately occurs to us, but also to the health and comfort of the troops. How tremendous has been the call upon this service can be seen from the expansion of the number. At the beginning of the war the Royal Army Medical Corps contained 3,168 officers; there are now nearly 14,000. Other ranks, 16,330; there are now 125,000. Nor must I omit the civil medical practitioners, including many surgeons and physicians of great practice and renown in this city, who have voluntarily sacrificed large incomes and connections in order to serve their country. There has never been an Army that has been in such a state of health as the British Army in France. In other wars disease has often proved more fatal than the guns of the enemy. We remember it in the Crimea. There were even some sad stories in South Africa. But in this war the health of the Army in the field has actually been better than that of the civilian population at home. It has been better than the health of the Army in times of peace, and, paradoxical though it may seem, the British Army in France has really been a sanitarium for the British citizen.

THE NURSES.

In our Motion we have not forgotten, but have included for the first time, the service of nurses. Nobly have they deserved this compliment. They have not only been ministering angels in the hospitals behind the lines, but they have been pushed forward to the Casualty Clearing Stations just behind the front line, where they have literally stood between the living and the dead. Their names figure not only as the heroines, but also as the martyrs, of this war. Several of them have been torpedoed and drowned at sea. Several others have been killed by bombs thrown on the hospitals

where they were serving. In one case the name of an English nurse has been rendered immortal by her martyrdom. This organisation also has expanded in proportion to the calls upon it. On August 1, 1914, Queen Alexandra's Imperial Nursing Service contained 463 nurses; there are now 7,711. The Territorial Army Nursing Service has expanded from 3,000 to 5,000.

THE AIR SERVICES.

• There is another Service about which you will expect me to say a word. I might have dealt with it under the Army or the Navy because it belongs to both, but I have reserved a special category for it, because of the quite exceptional nature of its service—I allude to the "Knights of the Air," whether belonging to the Royal Flying Corps or to the Royal Naval Air Service. I deliberately call them "Knights of the Air," because in this war nowhere more than in these aerial excursions and combats does it seem to me that the spirit of knight errantry has reappeared. The solitary ride on the machine through the heavens, the call for constant presence of mind and courage, the fierce combat, the swift victory or the sudden death—all of these seem like a survival of the romance of a bygone age. When, in August, 1914, 100 officers and 66 machines—for that was all we had—made their way either by sea or the air to France, who could have foreseen that this would develop into a great fleet of thousands of machines and ten thousands of men?

Let me give you an idea of their work on the Western front. In the first nine months of 1917 the men of the Royal Flying Corps brought down 876 machines of the enemy, drove down 759 out of action, and 52 were brought down by anti-aircraft gunfire. They dropped thousands of tons of explosives on aerodromes, military buildings, railways, bridges, communications, even on moving regiments of the enemy, swooping down to within a few feet of the ground and scattering and killing the enemy as he

marched. And this is not all. Apart from the offensive operations and activities of the Air Service, you must remember that they are in a true sense the "eyes" of the Army fighting in the field. They are always engaged in spotting the enemy batteries, taking photographs—and marvellous these photographs are; I have no doubt you have seen many of them—while by wireless telegraphy they enable our Artillery to control gunfire with deadly precision. Let us not forget also the airmen at home who have shattered the menace of the Zeppelin, and by their skill and bravery, on many occasions now, brought these great gas bags in flames to the ground. I sometimes think, when the Gothas are shrieking over London at night, and the civil population retreats to its cellars, that we might turn a thought to those brave men who are riding the darkness and the whirlwind, high up in the air, and who in those lofty altitudes are risking their lives to save us from destruction. The war abounds in stories of the heroism of the airmen in every field; and I do not know whether to admire most the actual gallantry of the men, or the extraordinary and marvellous development of scientific resources and ingenuity which has provided them with the means of carrying out their task.

I need hardly say that I include in the same tribute, in full and equal measure, the officers and men of the Royal Naval Air Service. There is no distinction between the two except the branch of the Service with which they are connected. At the beginning of the war the *personnel* of the R.N.A.S. was 800; it is now 42,000. Its fleet at the beginning of the war consisted of 7 airships, 30 aeroplanes, 34 seaplanes; the number is now many thousands. Perhaps the most effective branch of that Service has been the Naval Squadron at Dunkirk. It has really been one of the most efficient agencies of the war. Almost daily in our newspapers we read of their energy in bombing the enemy aerodromes—valuable, not merely for the destruction that is thus wrought, but also because every time they go

forth and attack the aerodromes of the enemy they are diminishing, and indeed at times they absolutely frustrate the invasion which may be contemplated by the enemy here. The aircraft of the R.N.A.S. have been similarly in evidence in every theatre of the war. They have flown over Damascus; they have dropped bombs on Beirut; they have destroyed buildings at Constantinople; and I dare say you will remember in the early operations of the war that splendid effort by which the Zeppelin shed was destroyed on Lake Constance.

OVERSEAS CONTINGENTS.

There remain but two paragraphs, and two only, with which I must ask your leave to deal before I sit down. The first is an acknowledgment of the services which have been rendered by the gallant troops from the Dominions and from India, and from our Crown Colonies and Protectorates. The Germans have made many miscalculations in this war, but I think that which must have caused them the most acute disappointment was the spectacle which was seen when, at the beginning of the war, there rallied round this country the armed contingents, both European and native, from our Dominions all over the world. These people realised with unerring instinct the nature of the issues which were involved. They saw that the British Empire was in danger, and that if it perished there would go with it the guarantees for their own free and contented existence. They never minded that the war was thousands of miles away, and that their country was not invaded, and, indeed, that no portion of the British Empire was invaded. They never thought of the dangers that were to be encountered or the lives that might be laid down. From all parts of the world the great greyhounds came coursing across the sea carrying to the battlefield the men of many races, religions, and climes.

SOUTH-WEST AFRICA.

Let me glance in a sentence or two at the principal scenes of their operations, either on the battlefields of Europe or in more remote parts of the world. In German South-West Africa the South African troops under General Botha, in a short campaign which lasted only eleven months, conquered 320,000 square miles of territory, and turned the Germans out of that country, as we hope, for ever. The operations were distinguished for the mobility and endurance of the troops and for the military skill and efficiency of the commander.

EAST AFRICA.

In East Africa we were confronted at the beginning of the war with a situation in which our Forces were greatly outnumbered, and in which we could not protect our own territory; but the tide was turned when General Smuts appeared on the scene in 1916 with a large South African Force and with a contingent from Rhodesia. Since then these troops have been replaced, for the most part, by native forces and by Indian troops and by men from the Gold Coast and Gambia. There have been great obstacles to be overcome—fighting over marshes, across mountains, amid deserts, in dense bush—but gradually the enemy have been driven back to the south-east corner of the Colony, where they are thrown back upon guerilla warfare and where the end cannot long be postponed.

TOGOLAND AND CAMEROONS.

Togoland and the Cameroons—German colonies—have been taken by British forces, almost entirely natives of West Africa, who have distinguished themselves bravely in the fighting there. It was a land of rivers of mountains, and of dense forest. The French fought side by side with ourselves, and in eighteen months the Colony was cleared—a result due equally to the bravery of the troops and the skill of the commander.

OTHER COLONIAL CONTINGENTS.

Meanwhile, Colonial contingents have shown their faces and have earned renown on other fronts. There has been a South African Brigade in France ever since 1916. The Rhodesians fought both in South-West Africa and in East Africa. The Newfoundland Battalion has taken part in all the principal fighting in France. All the available white men in our Colonies, and in our Protectorates in East Africa, Hong Kong, Celon, Mauritius, West Indies, Seychelles, Fiji, Malay, Bermuda, volunteered, and were either sent abroad or released garrisons which were maintained in those countries. Nor must we forget the Labour battalions, the carriers, of whom there have been many tens of thousands sent from our Colonies to the Front.

DOMINIONS' FORCES IN EUROPE.

I have reserved to the end the immortal service of the Canadians, the Australians, and New Zealanders, and the men of the Indian Army. Our kinsmen have more than once before rallied to our assistance. We saw them in Egypt; they fought with us in South Africa; but never has that service been so lavishly rendered, never has it been on such a scale, and never has it been attended with such important and decisive results as in this war. If I told you that Canada has sent 350,000 men for service overseas, and Australia 300,000, and New Zealand 120,000, I should be but little over the mark. If I added that South Africa has sent 50,000, and Newfoundland 4,000, I should be slightly under it. But the most remarkable feature of this contribution, next to the scale of the effort, has, I think, been the marvelously short time which has been taken to put these men into the line, and the success with which, almost from the start, they have been able to hold their own against seasoned professional troops. It may induce us to revise some of our own ideas about Army instruction in the future.

THE ANZACS.

Gallipoli was the first test of the quality of the Anzacs. Their bravery has invested that barren and forbidding spot with a glory which will never fade, and has added a name to the nomenclature of the British Empire. I have heard the commander on that Peninsula bear testimony to the joyous elation with which, as he described it, these overseas men faced danger and death. From there, after a rest, the Anzacs were taken to Egypt. Their Cavalry has since been serving in Egypt and in Sinai, and is now in Palestine, but their Infantry was transferred to France, and in France they have fought in every battle in the last one and a-half years—the Somme, Arras, Messines, and Ypres.

THE CANADIANS.

The Canadian record is not less glorious. There is still fresh in our memory the second Battle of Ypres—the first time gas was used—when the French line broke, and it was reserved for the Canadians to save the situation. It was largely due to their stubborn resistance at that time that the road to Calais was barred. Since then the Canadians have participated in every great battle; they have never wavered, and they have earned a place that will never be lost in the gratitude of the Empire.

INDIA.

The contribution of India has been in some respects the most remarkable of all, for in the first place they have provided troops for a much larger number of theatres of war than any other Overseas contingent. They have served in East Africa, Egypt, Mesopotamia, the Cameroons, Tsingtau, Aden, Gallipoli, Salonika, Flanders, France. What a record to be inscribed upon the banners of the Indian Army! What a terrible blow to German prognostications! In some of these theatres of war the Indian troops have been better qualified than others because of climatic conditions, and their

record in Mesopotamia has been one of exceptional valour and endurance. But remember that, elsewhere, they have been exposed to surroundings entirely novel in character, to a species of warfare of which they had no knowledge, to conditions which at times must have been shattering to the nerve, and might have broken the *morale* even of trained European forces. The fortitude with which they have conducted themselves in France, in a climate which must seem to them very often to be one of cruel severity, is one of the outstanding features of the war. It is a record of which **they and we may be proud**. And the fact that two Victoria Crosses have been pinned to the breasts of Indian soldiers is a direct testimony to the valour and endurance which they have displayed.

I have now completed my survey of the various theatres of war, and I have endeavoured, however imperfectly, to enumerate the services that have been rendered. I have **deliberately** said nothing about the administration and organisation at home, about the work of the Generals and administrative Staffs of the War Office, and the Home Command. No one who has not been in close touch with their work can picture the incessant labour that has been involved in the creation and training of our new Armies, the change in war time from a voluntary to a compulsory system, and the control, organisation, and maintenance of the vast Armies which we now have in the field. But their time for praise and congratulation will come later on. To-day we have been dealing with the service of our men and women in the field.

CAPTURES.

I, perhaps, could not give you a better idea of the full measure of the achievement of the Armies whose work I have been narrating than by communicating to you a statement of the captures of prisoners and guns which have been effected by them, and the extent of enemy territory which they have taken in the last three years. We have captured,

in all the theatres of war, over 159,000 prisoners and 683 guns. We have taken 1,244,000 square miles of enemy territory in East and West Africa and the Pacific; in Egypt we have recovered over 20,000 squares miles of territory which the enemy had overrun; and in the Western theatre we have, in conjunction with our Allies, since the trench lines were established from the North Sea to Switzerland, recovered 1,410 square miles of French and Belgian territory.

THE WOUNDED.

It remains for me only, before I resume my seat, to offer on your behalf a tribute of our admiring gratitude to all the brave men who have returned and will return, maimed or broken, from the awful ordeal of the Front, and whose cheerfulness and fortitude in the face of blindness, of mutilation, and of many forms of suffering and torture, makes us proud to be their countrymen.

PRISONERS OF WAR.

One word also I must devote to the poor prisoners of war, many of them languishing in captivity for the best part of three years. The victims of ill-fortune, they have suffered from no conduct of their own. Many of them have experienced cruel treatment at the hands of their merciless gaolers. But I suspect that if we could get to the bottom of their minds we should find that the worst torture which they have suffered is that of being unable to stand by their countrymen in this great struggle for the future of their common race.

THOSE WHO HAVE FALLEN.

The Motion to which I ask your assent concludes with an expression of the respectful sympathy of this House to the relations and friends of those who have fallen. There is an old saying that in peace men bury their fathers, and in war fathers bury their sons. Many of those fathers sit upon these benches. If I cast my eyes around I can see them in many quarters of this House. Nothing that I can say,

nothing that we can do, can mitigate the severity of the blow that has fallen upon them or console them for the irreparable loss that they have sustained. But it is possible that the unanimous thanks and vote of Parliament may add something to the pride that is mingled with their grief, and may assure them that we are conscious of the superlative value of the sacrifice that they have made. We know, as they know, that their dear ones have fought, not because they loved war, but because they loved peace more than war. They died that the nation might live, and that peace and justice might reign once more on the earth. In some Eastern countries that I have visited the foundations of palaces and city walls used to be cemented with the blood of human victims, slaughtered in the pit where the foundation stones were laid. The blood of our heroes has been shed as a voluntary sacrifice to lay the foundation of a structure fairer, stronger, more enduring than any palace or city built by men's hands—namely, the fabric of a new society, free from the flaws and weakness of the times that are passing away, and reared on the solid bases of humanity and freedom. Thus may those who have died become in their death the architects of a new world in which the generations that live after them may breathe a purer air and pursue a higher aim. Let us see to it that this is no idle dream, and that when our soldiers come back to England they will return to a country for which those who died have not died in vain, and which those who survive will find to be a land worth living for and living in. I beg to make the Motion which stands in my name.

Moved to resolve—

That the thanks of this House be given to the officers, petty officers, and men of the Navy for their faithful watch upon the seas during more than three years of ceaseless danger and stress, while guarding our shores and protecting from the attacks of a barbarous foe, the commerce upon which the victory of the Allied cause depends.

That the thanks of this House be given to the officers, non-commissioned officers, and men of the British Armies in the field, and also to the women in the medical and other services auxiliary thereto, for their unfailing courage and endurance in defending the right, amid sufferings and hardships unparalleled in the history of war, and for their loyal readiness to continue the work to which they have set their hands until the liberty of the world is secure.

That the thanks of this House be accorded to the gallant troops from the Dominions Overseas, from India, and from the Crown Colonies who have travelled many thousands of miles to share with their comrades from the British Isles in the sacrifices and triumphs of the battlefield, and to take their full part in the struggle for human freedom.

That the thanks of this House be accorded to the officers and men of the Mercantile Marine for the devotion to duty with which they have continued to carry the vital supplies to the Allies though seas infested with deadly peril.

That this House doth acknowledge with grateful admiration the valour and devotion of those who have offered their lives in the service of their country, and tenders its sympathy to their relatives and friends in the sorrows they have sustained.

THE MARQUIS OF CREWE.

The MARQUIS OF CREWE : In this House, where a Motion needs no seconder, we might well have been content to leave the expression of our gratitude to the two Services to the eloquent voice of the noble Earl who leads us, and to the masterly review and analysis of the whole field of war during these years to which we have just listened. But perhaps it is as well that this expression should be in some degree enforced by one who does not sit on Government Benches

as an evidence of our complete union of mind in this matter, for it is impossible to conceive the slightest dissent from anything which has fallen from Lord Curzon. It is true that in the past the conclusion of hostilities might have been waited for before such a Motion as this was made; but, as Lord Curzon pointed out, this occasion has been one of unprecedented service and unprecedented sacrifice. It is no question of conveying the thanks of the nation to a small professional band of heroes of the Army and Navy; it is actually the case that something like three-fourths of the whole adult population of these islands desires to express its gratitude to the remaining one-fourth. That one-fourth has gone through a series of unheard-of hardships, and has endured more than any Army or Navy has had to endure before in every part of the world.

CONFIDENCE IN THE NAVY.

In 1914 these islands were watched over by the three great units of the Home Fleet, and it is to that Fleet that we still owe the security—of which, unless we specially think of it, we are barely conscious—the kind of security which is felt by no other of our European Allies, and of which we cannot be too mindful. And with what reinforcement of our seafaring race does that Navy now continue to guard us? The patrol vessels, the mine-sweepers, the trawlers, the drifters—those have all received their meed of praise. Leading a life very often of absolute monotony but accompanied by a monotony of danger from which there is often no respite whatever, the Royal Navy, speaking generally, has had but comparatively few chances of dramatic distinction during the present war. We certainly must not forget Admiral Sturdee's dash to the Falkland Islands in December, 1914, which reflected equal credit on those who planned it and on those who carried it out. The Jutland Battle of last year was, as we know, robbed of such a victory as was won by Rodney or Nelson; but nobody can ever forget the determination with which the battle-cruiser

squadrons clung to their superior foe, or the rush of the Battle Fleet summoned to the scene of action, and, not least, the perpetual devotion of the light cruisers and flotillas all through the course of that battle.

LOOKING BACK A CENTURY.

That was a year and five months ago; and since then, as we have been told, the German High Sea Fleet has been, in practice, dormant. It is true that the menace of the submarines has since then greatly increased, and it would no doubt be false to speak of it as overcome. But that it is not altogether overcome is certainly not the fault of the Navy. And I do not think that it is unreasonable to conclude that, in this particular matter, experience and scientific experiment should lead rather to the advantages of the defence than of the attack. After all, do not let us forget that between 1794 and 1815 something more than 10,000 British ships of one kind and another were destroyed by the enemy. During the whole of that time we held, generally speaking, the command of the sea. In the ten years from 1805 we held it as absolutely as it has ever been held; yet during those twenty years that great figure of loss was incurred. I am sure that we all desire not merely to express our deep sense of gratitude to Sir John Jellicoe, to Sir David Beatty, and to all the officers and men of the Navy, but also to express our absolute confidence in them in their respective positions in the Fleet.

“ THAT UNPRECEDENTED FORCE.”

Lord Curzon told us how our military affairs stood at the beginning of August, 1914. As a matter of fact, the entire British Force—Regular, with their Reserve, the Special Reserve, and the Territorial Army, including the British Forces all over the world—amounted to some 750,000 men; and in the first week of the war another half million, as you will remember, were voted. How urgent the need of addition to that Force, greatly scattered at that time, was,

may be shown by the fact that in the first year of the war our British casualties were 330,000, or, say, 45 per cent. of the entire force of British soldiers, including Territorials, all over the world. We know that great additions continued to be made on the voluntary basis during the first year of the war; and it is, I think, important to remember that during the year 1915 the more difficult problem was to supply the necessary equipment for the men that we had, than to find, for the moment, more men. In the meantime, from the very first days of the war, the Dominions vied with each other in prompt and free-handed contributions of men; and in India, as we know, every Native State that possessed an Army offered it freely at once to their Emperor and the British Government. Thus, first on the voluntary basis and afterwards by a compulsory system freely accepted by the country, arose, in the words of an acute and generous French critic—

“That unprecedented force which has absorbed all military precedent and tradition, an emanation from the very depths of English life, combining every essential British characteristic, intellectual and religious; with all the national conventions, prejudices, catch-words, ideals, and virtues.”

That writer, M. André Chevrillon, goes on to say in words which I believe to be profoundly true, that—

“The Germans believed that they had foreseen every material contingency; but the New Armies of Britain had their origin in spiritual realities to which our methodical foe has been uniformly blind.”

“MOST HUMANE AND CRIMELESS ARMY.”

Yes, educated Englishmen, outside the regular Services, altogether lacked that training in the elements of military science which men of the same sort on the Continent of Europe have all acquired at some time or other of their lives. Our educated classes, both professional and artisan, first had to overtake that industrial organisation for war

which for many years past in Germany had been fostered by State endowments. That is conceivable. But how would it be, it was asked, when it came for those men to the actual practice and conduct of the art of war? I venture to say that the result was equally amazing both to military and civilian observers. It shows, indeed, that education does not consist only in the acquiring of a series of facts, but in the broadening of the mind of those who learn, and in the development of character, both to dare and to endure. The fact is that the conversion of the British people into an Army, as reckless in courage as any Army, as patient to unparalleled hardship, and undoubtedly the most humane and crimeless Army that has ever taken the field in war, is one of the most tremendous phenomena that can be found in the pages of all history.

“TO A WHOLE NATION.”

It is, indeed, to a whole nation, so far as numbers are concerned, that our thanks have to be rendered; but it is impossible that some individual names should not rise to the mind as they did to the mind of Lord Curzon. We think, first of all, of Lord Kitchener, who rests in his vast and wandering grave. Then of the noble Viscount, who is not now in the House, but whom we are also proud to have as a member of this House, Lord French, whose title will preserve, as I hope, for many generations to come the recollection of the stand of the British Army, in what I suppose was the most critical moment of the whole war, at Ypres in the end of October, 1914. Now we think of the Field-Marshal Commanding-in-Chief, and also of Sir William Robertson, who played so great a part in France before he came to take charge here. Both those merit and possess the absolute confidence of the country, and we feel that the decisive end of the war, which alone will content us, will come to pass under their guidance and auspices. Then Lord Curzon mentioned, not by name, for they are too many, all the capable lieutenants of the Commander-in-Chief and

of the Army Council in the various theatres of the war, worthy chiefs of the glorious troops that they command, and the non-commissioned officers and the men.

"A LAUREL WREATH UPON THEIR GRAVES."

I was glad that Lord Curzon placed in the very first rank the Medical Service, both that part of it which was originally military and that part of it which was originally civil, and also the chaplains and the goodly company, both of men and women, who have given their devotion, and not seldom their lives, in the different branches of hospital and of ambulance work. It was barely possible to enumerate all the various branches of the services to which we wish to render our tribute. There was no part of his speech which seemed to me more eloquent and more charged with emotion than his reference to the two branches of the Air Service, which indeed deserve as large a share of our thanks as any. But most of all, of course, we desire to render our thanks to those who are no longer here to receive them, but have passed beyond this turbulent world. We can only, by passing this Resolution, lay our laurel wreath upon their graves, and offer to those who mourn them the tribute of our undying sympathy and our pride.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY.

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY : Perhaps it may not be out of place that a few words should be spoken by one who approaches the subject from a standpoint a little different from that of either Cabinet Minister or political leader or warrior by land, or sea, or air, and whose duty it is to try to be in daily touch with the underlying principles on which all that is best in English life is based.

It is hard to find terms adequate to express what we all feel about our sailors and soldiers, whether it be the dauntless men who have a Hotspur enthusiasm for the fray, or the more thoughtful and quiet-spirited men who, with perhaps no

martial ardour to start with, have yet of deliberate choice given themselves to the task of upholding what they believe to be right,-and in doing it have shown a courage as dauntless and a perseverance as thorough as that which could be shown by the bravest and most hardened soldier or sailor in the land, or the immense multitude of those splendid, dogged Englishmen and Scotsmen who have been facing throughout all the privations and difficulties of these terrible campaigns with a courage, a cheeriness, and a good humour which have made an imperishable mark upon the mind of their countrymen.

A TASK BEYOND ALL CALCULATION.

I noted, too, with satisfaction, the reference made to those who minister to the bodies and the spirits of those who are serving. The testimony deepens day by day as to the services that are felt to have been rendered by those medical men, who have at immense sacrifice given themselves—to do better than it has ever been done before—a task immense beyond all calculation; and to the services of the chaplains who have striven, again in the face of great difficulties, to fulfil the grandest task that could be given to men.

I should like for just a moment or two to emphasise the subsidiary work, the complementary work, which is being done by those—both men and women—whose names do not appear in the forefront at least of the records of service rendered, but whose deeds, both at home and abroad, are making a new mark in the life of the English people, a mark that is not going to be very readily or ever effaced. If ever a record of what is being done in this war could, as it certainly can never, be made complete, those who are working in what I have called the subsidiary and incidental support of our great cause and our great war would have a place in the foremost line of honour, all the more because no public plaudit in their favour now ordinarily meets the ear.

THE VALUE OF UNSEEN WORK.

You go, as I do, from place to place in our land, and we are day by day startled to find—and it fills us with wondering admiration—how people from whom work could hardly be expected (the delicate, the reserved, the very old) are contributing at this time to the needs of their country, either by direct or indirect service. I have been struck again and again by seeing what is possible to be done—what is now being done by men and women alike who feel that they must be bearing their part in an enterprise so vast as this, which calls for the output of all the energy of all the people if the work is to be worthily performed. The value of that work seems to me to rest not merely in what the worker is actually doing, but it expresses a larger and deeper patriotism which is going to be born anew out of this great conflict. Many people who had, perhaps, little opportunity and certainly took small occasion to think of these things in ordinary life, are now feeling the splendour of their responsibility and their trust as members of the Empire to which they have the privilege to belong. If the rope of human brotherhood, that link which binds nations together, is to be made strong hereafter on behalf of justice and truth and liberty, it will be by the knitting together of many strands; and the patriotism which we are evoking will make one strand which is imperishable in its strength for the furtherance of that for which that bond is ultimately to endure. Of course, the thought is not a new one. The fact is that in hundreds of thousands of homes the idea of patriotism is now becoming the ordinary thought, and the principle which underlies it is becoming current coin. That is something which is worth while at this time, and for which we ought to be, and the country will be, expressing thankfulness.

THOSE WHO WORK AT HOME.

I should like to say how the country thanks those who are doing what is, perhaps, the hardest task of all—men who would give simply anything to go out, but are obliged to work

at home because their services here are wanted; who feel, it may be, that they are liable, not merely to the disappointment which is inevitable to themselves, but to some degree of misapprehension on the part of their friends and others. These men are deserving every whit as much gratitude and honour as those who are fighting at the Front. They are, perhaps, doing harder things in the response they are making to the home call than they would do in fighting in the forefront of the field. We thank these inconspicuous but unforgettable workers, men and women, not only for what they do and suffer, but also for the abiding asset they are to English life in implanting so firmly amongst us the idea that it is not upon armaments or military prowess alone but on the spirit that lies behind them that must ultimately depend the cause of right in Europe and beyond it. The fact that they are making this clear for all time is something for which we have good cause to offer to them, on behalf of the country, our thanks just now.

PEACE AND THE NEW WORLD.

We are striving together for a just and enduring peace. A noted American thinker has pointed out—it is the thought which brought America to our side—that peace is not in itself the ultimate ideal. Our ideal is the establishment of human liberty, human justice, and the honourable conduct of our civilised and humane society. Secure that, and a durable peace follows naturally. Without that, it seems to me to be no true or abiding peace, but only the rule of force until liberty and justice should revolt against it again in search of peace. The new Europe, nay, the new world, of which we are in search, is going to insist upon justice, liberty, and righteousness as its foundation, and it will welcome a durable peace as the companion and friend of these new conditions. It is for the courage, the perseverance, the patience, and the resource of the men and women of our country in their work for the furtherance of this end that we desire to express our country's thanks.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE.

THE EARL OF SELBORNE: As I had the great honour of presiding over the Board of Admiralty for five years, I should not like to pass in silence this historic occasion. I need not say how entirely I associate myself with all that my noble friend the Leader of the House said about the Army—the Home Army, the Indian Army, and the Army of the Dominions. I was very glad to hear what he said concerning the retreat from Mons and the first Battle of Ypres, for I veritably believe that in the calm light of knowledge the historian, when he comes to write the history of this, the greatest war of the world's story, will fix upon that retreat and upon that first battle, and say that the safety of civilisation hung then in the balance, and that the world, not only England, was saved by Lord French and the little old Army.

SUPREME SEAMANSHIP.

When I was at the Admiralty it was not possible to feel a more implicit and unlimited confidence than I felt in the courage, the devotion, the endurance, and the professional capacity of the officers, warrant officers, petty officers, seamen, stokers, and marines of the Fleet. It was not possible to have had a more implicit belief that when the day of trial came there would be no failure, and therefore nothing that has happened has surprised me. But the country does want reminding again and again, how tremendous have been the services of the Fleet, partly unrecognised because they are comparatively obscure. I should lay stress particularly on the supreme seamanship, the wonderful efficiency which has enabled this service to be carried on for three and a half years, without cessation, in all weathers, with the minimum of mishap or misfortune. And then there is the Fleet Reserve of seamen, stokers, and marines who had served in the Fleet and taken their discharge. Behind them are the Royal Naval Reserve, the men of the Mercantile Marine, fishermen, and the men of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, many of

whom were landsmen, clerks, mechanics, and artisans. The whole of that wonderful auxiliary service which Lord Curzon so beautifully described, especially that of the mine-sweepers, has been done mainly by men of the Royal Naval Reserve—by fishermen turned King's sailors. The youngest Service of all, the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, has taken its place and worked on board ship with the men of the profession, and has fulfilled all our aspirations.

But there was nothing that my noble friend said which I felt to be more profoundly true than what he said about the Mercantile Marine. What the Mercantile Marine has done cannot be expressed; there are some thoughts too deep for utterance. The men of the Mercantile Marine have no tradition behind them like the Navy, no discipline to support them; and did not join the profession, which would carry them in its train, support them, and bear them up. They are free men at the end of each voyage.

“HAS ONE MAN LEFT?”

But has one man left? Has one crew refused, or even hesitated, to sail? Have not men, marooned in a boat in mid-Atlantic, the moment they have been restored to health, signed on again for another voyage, and mostly in unarmed ships, always in ships only armed as a means of defence? There were croakers before this war who told us that our race had deteriorated. Our forefathers never had to face an ordeal in the least degree equal to that which our seamen and soldiers have faced in this war; but I believe the most sublime example of the unconquerable soul has been given by the men of the Mercantile Marine.

ADMIRAL LORD BERESFORD.

LORD BERESFORD: As an old naval officer I should like to support what Lord Selborne said about the Mercantile Marine. The country does not know yet what it owes to the Mercantile Marine. When war was declared our trade routes were unprotected and our ships were unarmed. Men

went out to face certain death, and there are 9,000 of them at the bottom of the sea, and 4,000 of them prisoners. No atrocities that have ever been committed by any nation in the world are equal to those to which our mercantile seamen have been subjected. Submarines have blown up unarmed ships, and the men of those submarines have slaughtered our men who were unarmed. The enemy have told our men that they would tow them to places of safety, but twenty minutes afterwards they have towed them straight to the bottom, perhaps two only being left to tell the tale. I have myself seen a man who has been seven times torpedoed. He was as fine a specimen of a British seaman as you would see. He was not very well, and I asked him what he was going to do. He replied, "I shall be all right in about a week, and then I will go to sea again." I have also seen a boy whose feet were off. He was the only survivor of a boat's crew, all the other members of the crew having been slaughtered by machine guns. If the heroes of our Mercantile Service were falling in in a party with the Army and Navy, the officers and men of the Army and Navy would say, "Let the men of the Mercantile Marine take the right of the line." Why? Because they know that these men enable the Army and the Navy to fight. You are sitting here at this moment because these men die that you should live. As I say, I cannot, as an old naval officer, emphasise sufficiently what the Mercantile Marine have done for us; they have absolutely saved us. These men have come to our help in every way. There are thousands of them in the Navy, and we are proud of it. I hope that after this war the association and the co-operation between the two Services will be far better and far higher than ever before.

WHAT MINE-SWEEPERS DO.

The fishermen on the trawlers and the drifters go out to almost certain death every time. What do they go out for? They go out to clear the fairways of the mines so that the vessels in which their comrades are coming, bringing food

and raw material from over the waters, should have a clear way into the harbour. They run the risk of being destroyed by submarines outside, and then they run another risk of being destroyed by mines when they get into the fairway; and other men go out every day and every night sweeping for the mines. At one estuary in the North when certain ships were going out, the officer in command thought: "Well, I have had it swept at 8 o'clock to-night. I am going to take some ships out to-morrow. There is just a chance that a submarine may come. I will have it swept once more at 4 o'clock in the morning." Two sweepers were blown up doing that. These men are a part of the Mercantile Marine as it was known before the war. I believe that the country does not really know what the Mercantile Marine does. But the Royal Navy and the Army know; both Services are well aware of the extraordinary gallantry of these seamen—a gallantry that is traditional to the British Mercantile Marine and has never been surpassed in all our history.

The Resolution was agreed to *nemine dissente*.

HOUSE OF COMMONS

THE PRIME MINISTER (MR. LLOYD GEORGE).

MR. LLOYD GEORGE, in moving the Vote of Thanks in the House of Commons, said :

Even had I the leisure, which I certainly have not in these terrible times, I feel that I could not do justice to this great theme; but the deeds which are referred to in the Resolution are so well known and have won such universal admiration and gratitude, not merely from every member of this House, but from every subject of His Majesty, that I feel that no words are necessary in order to commend it to the acceptance of any body of Britishers throughout the world.

Taking the first paragraph in the Resolution—that which refers to the British Navy—the enormous magnitude of our Army, the fact that it has representatives in millions of homes in the country, and the dazzling record of its great achievements, may in some respects have obscured the service which the British Navy has rendered to this country and to its Allies.

ANCHOR OF THE ALLIED CAUSE.

The British Navy is like one of those internal organs, essential to life, but of the existence of which we are not conscious until something goes wrong. The Navy is taken for granted. In this War the British Navy has been the anchor of the Allied cause. If it lost its hold the hopes of the Alliance would be shattered. To realise the power and might of the British Navy and how essential a part it has played in this great struggle, one has only to imagine for a moment what would have happened, not if we had not had the command of the sea at the beginning of the War, but if the British Navy had been defeated even a year ago and the sceptre of the seas had been snatched by our foes. Our

armies in France, in Mesopotamia, in Salonika, and in Egypt would have languished and finally vanished for lack of support in men and material. France, deprived not merely of our support but of the material assistance which the British Navy enables us still to get from abroad, would be unable probably to defend herself against the overwhelming hordes of the foe. Italy, deprived of coal for her ammunition and of food, would have fallen a ready prey to her fierce and vindictive enemies. Russia, cut off on the east and the west, would indeed have been defenceless. I have no hesitation in saying that but for the British Navy overwhelming disaster would have fallen on the Allied cause. Prussia would have been the insolent mistress of Europe, and, through Europe, of the world.

THIRTEEN MILLIONS HAVE CROSSED THE SEAS.

Never in the whole of the affairs of the world has the British Navy been a more potent and a more beneficent influence in the affairs of men. What has it accomplished? In spite of hidden foes, as well as open attack, in spite of legitimate naval warfare, and in spite of black piracy, it has preserved the highway of the seas for Britain and her Allies. I would just give a few interesting figures of the numbers of men and the quantities of material which have been transported since the beginning of the War to the British Armies and to those of our Allies. Thirteen million men have crossed and recrossed the seas, 2,000,000 horses, 25,000,000 tons of explosives and supplies, 51,000,000 tons of coal and oil fuel for the use of our Fleet and our Armies and to meet the needs of our Allies. And the losses in men out of the whole of that 13,000,000 during these years of war have only been 3,500, 2,700 of these alone through the action of the enemy, and the remainder through the ordinary perils of the sea—this apart from the prodigious quantity of food and other materials amounting in all to 130,000,000 tons, transported in British ships. This indeed has been a triumph for the great Navy

THE GRAND FLEET.

It is too early yet to summarise the effects of the blockade of the British Navy upon our foes, a blockade which would have been complete had we not left the gates of the Balkans unlocked and unguarded. As to our Grand Fleet, they have not had many opportunities such as those which built the fame of our Navy, but that is not their fault. On the contrary, it is the recognition of their merit. It has been due to no deficiency on their part, but to the enemy knowledge of their efficiency. The Germans know they are there, and since the battle of Jutland they have never seen fit to challenge that Great Fleet; and it is the best proof that they do not trust the veracity of their own chroniclers that they have not yet challenged the Navy which they then claimed to have overcome.

THE FLEETS BEHIND THE FLEET.

As to the smaller craft of the Fleet, their work and peril never ends. They are numbered by the thousand, and their hardships and dangers are barely realised, but through their action security and plenty are enjoyed by the population of these Islands. They patrol the seas from the icy waters of the Arctic Ocean to the stormy floods of Magellan. There is not an ocean, a sea, a bay, a gulf—there is not an estuary used for commerce which is not patrolled by the ships of the British Navy. How dangerous a task it is the casualty lists proclaim, because in proportion to their numbers the dead are equal to those of the British Army. Through it all the command of the sea has been maintained. I am glad that in this respect special recognition is accorded to the officers and men of the mercantile marine. It is a great distinction for any civilian body to be placed in the same category as the soldiers of the British Army and the sailors of the British Navy, but the officers and men of the British mercantile marine have won that distinction. Seamanship at best is a comfortless and a cheerless calling. I remember that when

I occupied the office of President of the Board of Trade, the concern of the Department at that time was the difficulty in getting men to engage in this avocation, and as the standard of living improved it was impossible almost to persuade men to pursue a trade so full of peril and so devoid of comfort. That was in time of peace. What is it now? During the War the strain, the hardship, the terror, the peril, have increased manifold. Piracy is more rampant and ruthless than it has ever been in the history of the world. This is a new terror added to those of the deep.

THE VALOUR OF THE MARINER.

The risks of the navigator have increased in every direction. Lighthouses which were there to warn the mariner against imminent peril are, many of them, dark. They have to drive their ships full speed through fog and through storm; the ceaseless watch has a new terror, not merely of the day but of the night. Their eyes spear the dark for objects hardly visible on the surface of the seas, even in sunlight, and yet life depends upon their observing those objects in time. Then when the blow comes from the invisible foe they are faced with conditions which would make the stoutest heart quail. The mariner is left with the surging seas around him, scores of miles from a friendly shore. And yet amongst those who go down to the deep in ships there has not been found one man who refused to sail. I have made inquiries, and I am told on all hands that the men return with greater alacrity than in times of peace. Men torpedoed twice, thrice, seven times, hardly wait for their papers before they return to another ship, because they realise that in these times their country cannot spare one man or one hour. This is no time to dwell upon the dark deeds of our foes on the sea; but they are all in the reckoning. What has struck me with regard to the sailors is this: they have no fear of danger; there is not one of them who shirks it; but they abhor the degradation of seamanship involved in these actions and the dishonour to the traditions of a noble calling. That

is why the sailor steadfastly refuses to have any traffic with men who are guilty of such conduct, or of sanctioning it, until the stain is wiped out.

OUR FEARLESS FISHERMEN.

I would like to say a word about our fishermen. Their contribution has been a great one. Sixty per cent. of our fishermen are in the Naval Service. Their trawlers are engaged in some of the most perilous tasks that can be entrusted to sailors—that of mine-sweeping, a dangerous occupation often ending in disaster. The number of mines they have swept is incredible, and if they had not done this Britain would now have been blockaded by a ring of deadly engines anchored round our shores. But their services have not been confined to this. You find their trawlers patrolling the seas everywhere, protecting ships, and not merely around the British Isles. You find these fishing trawlers in the Mediterranean. These men surely deserve the best thanks that we can accord them for the services which they have rendered.

I should like to give the House one or two illustrations of the way in which these fishermen have faced these new perils. Here is one case given to me by the Admiralty. A trawler was attacked by the gunfire of a German submarine. Though armed only with a three-pounder gun and outranged by her opponents she refused to haul down her flag, even when the skipper had both legs shot off and most of the crew were killed or injured. "Throw the confidential books overboard and throw me after them," said the skipper, and, refusing to leave his ship when the few survivors took to the boat, he went down with his trawler.

There is another case of an armed trawler escorting a number of fishing vessels. Attacked by submarines, outranged, the main boom broken, the funnel down, the wheel-house blown up, the steering gear disabled, many of the men killed, the ship sinking, they patched her up with canvas; she goes on fighting, and when she ultimately goes down the fishing fleet is safe in port. These are not men trained

for war. These are fishermen; but this is the spirit that has animated our sailors whether in the Navy or in the mercantile marine or in our fishing fleets. Never have British sailors, whether in the Navy or in the auxiliary services, shown more grit. Never have they rendered greater service to their native land or to humanity. For their courage, for their resolution, for the service they have rendered and for the resource they have shown, I invite the House in this Resolution to thank them, officers and men.

ARMIES, OLD AND NEW.

I come now to the part of the Resolution which deals with the Army. Our Expeditionary Force numbered at the beginning of the War 160,000 men. Our Expeditionary Forces to-day number over 3,000,000—probably the greatest feat of military organisation in the history of the world.* It never could have been accomplished but for the heroism and self-sacrifice of the old Army—the old Army, the finest body of troops in the world at that time, more highly trained, more disciplined, more perfect in physique than any other. It saved Europe. In the retreat from Mons it delayed overwhelming hordes of the enemy, and at the Marne helped to roll back the invader. But more than all, the great first battle of Ypres was one of the decisive battles of the world. With unparalleled tenacity and sacrifice it held superior forces for weeks. The enemy superior in numbers and material; our troops short of heavy artillery and ammunition, with no reserves. Every man was put in, Cavalry men, cooks, drivers, servants, and through the individual efforts of officers and men, iron discipline, dogged determination, the Army held out to the last and saved us from disaster.

HOW THE TERRITORIALS FOUGHT.

By the end of November France was saved, and Europe; but there was hardly a man left out of the old Army. One Division went into battle 12,000 strong. It came out 2,000. Of 400 officers only fifty were left—in one battle. The old

Army is the Army that gathered the spears of the Prussian legions into its breast, and in perishing saved Europe. No sacrifice in the history of the world has had greater results, and those seven divisions have a unique position in history and in the annals of the British Army. Then after that came the dreary winter and spring of 1914 and 1915. Most of the old veterans gone! And here let me say a word for the Territorials who came to the rescue. Old Army gone; New Army not ready; and somebody had to occupy water-logged trenches. Somebody had to stand torrents of shot and shell from well-equipped artillery, with orders that only two or three shells per day could be spared for our guns. Somebody had to do that for months while the New Army was getting ready; and the Territorials fought with the ardour of recruits in their first charge; yea, and with the steadiness of veterans in their hundredth fight! And let me say one word here—and I am glad to say it—we owe a debt of gratitude to the man who created that organisation which came to the rescue of the Empire at such a critical hour.

LORD KITCHENER'S PART.

Now we come to our New Army, who occupy the battle line from the German Ocean to the Persian Gulf. The raising and training of that Army was an unexampled feat, and will always be associated with the name, the great name, of Lord Kitchener. I could not even pretend to give a summary of their achievements. We knew, we have heard, many descriptions of battles in narratives we have read, and all I can say is that it fills us with a sense of swelling pride that we should belong to the race that has produced such men. There has been nothing comparable to the sustained courage displayed by the British soldier in this War. In previous wars you had great, you had fierce, battles, which lasted for hours, not many of them lasting for days. Those have been the great examples in history; and then you had long intervals of marching and preparation. Now you have battles that last not for hours, not for days or for weeks, but battles that

last for months. Never had British courage been put to so terrible a test; never has it so triumphantly endured it. When I read of the conditions under which our gallant soldiers fight I marvel that the delicate and sensitive mechanism of the human nerve and the human mind can endure them without derangement. The campaigns of Stonewall Jackson fill us with admiration and with wonder—how that man of iron led his troops through the mire and the swamps of Virginia. But his troops were never called upon to lie for days and nights in morasses under ceaseless thunderbolts from a powerful artillery, and then march into battle through an engulfing quagmire under a hailstorm of machine-gun fire. That is what our troops have gone through.

IN THE EAST AND IN AFRICA.

They were confronted with the finest Army in the world—the men trained for years, the officers instructed and prepared for this hour. Our men, with a few months' training, our officers in the main taken from counting houses, factories, schools and colleges. Their generals, accustomed to handle scores and hundreds of thousands of men in great manœuvres, while ours at the best were only afforded the opportunity of handling a few thousands. And yet these men with this training, with these scant opportunities, are bringing to defeat veteran armies, entrenched in formidable positions. We really owe a debt of the deepest thanks to this great Army. I can only barely refer to their achievement in other things. In Salonika they have had few opportunities for glory. They arrived too late to save Serbia, but they have faced the malaria of summer and the piercing cold of winter, and they have borne them all with spirit and good cheer—because no country has ever had more cheerful heroes to deal with than we have. In Mesopotamia there is a record of heroism—the way they endured the disasters of the earlier months, the brilliant way in which they retrieved those disasters, re-establishing British prestige throughout the East. In Africa, under most trying conditions of climate

--everywhere—these men have behaved in a way which is worthy of the great country to which they belong, and of the record of the great Army in which they are serving.

LORD FRENCH AND SIR DOUGLAS HAIG.

The time has not yet come for singling out individuals. When the task is accomplished, when the issues are no longer in the balance, when we are able to appreciate values of work done, by the traditions of this House individuals will be thanked and rewarded; and I shall only speak in passing—and I think the House will expect me to do so—in respect of two or three of the most conspicuous figures in the struggle. I think that I ought to say a word about the Commander-in-Chief of our old Army, and of at least two of the new Army, who have had to fight in the most difficult conditions—General Sir Douglas Haig and General Maude. I do not feel competent myself to express opinions which are sufficiently valuable on the achievements of these great soldiers. Therefore, if the House will permit me, I will quote the authority of one of the most brilliant members of our Imperial General Staff in respect of these three great Generals. With regard to Lord French, he says :

“This country should not forget the services rendered by Lord French. He displayed the most indomitable courage, calmness and foresight in circumstances which at the time appeared desperate and in conditions which imposed as hard a test as any commander has ever been required to bear.”

With regard to the present distinguished Commander-in-Chief of our great Armies in France, the same military authority says, and I am certain that the House will accept his words :

“Splendid as the fighting qualities of our troops have been, and great as is our material superiority, success has been due in very large measure to the powers of organisation, the persistence, the foresight of the Commander-in-Chief. The conduct of operations on this scale

requires from all commanders a degree of knowledge, care, scientific training and organising ability such as no previous war has required, and in all these respects, as well as in the universal confidence which he inspires, Sir Douglas Haig has shown himself to be both a great general and a great leader of men."

With regard to General Maude, of whose achievements I have already spoken, the same authority bears testimony to the magnificent service which he has rendered, and says:

"He has displayed a degree of resource, skill and energy which mark him out as a commander of no ordinary merit."

TO ALL WHO HAVE SERVED.

This Resolution refers to the fighting forces in the field, and obviously that is right. We are thanking those who have rendered service in the battlefield. The time will come when we shall thank those who have rendered equally conspicuous service behind the lines at home—on our Staff, on our Home command, in the organisation of our transport, of our railway system, and in the equipment of our Army. But we shall also thank—when the time comes to single out—the men who, in various commands, some high and some low, have rendered service in this War—commanders of armies, of army corps, of divisions, of brigades, and others. But I do not think that this is the occasion upon which we could usefully dwell upon the services rendered by these individuals, great though those services have been, and deep as is the gratitude which we feel.

I should like to say a word about the parts of the Empire which have contributed to this great Army. England has contributed 75 per cent. of the armies of the Empire. I want to say a word, first of all, about England—and I do so, not because England is not great enough to give, not merely her share, but more than her due share, to other nationalities in the Empire, but because it is necessary to dwell upon that fact, for the simple reason that our foes have been cir-

culating the same old calumny about England, that **she is** fighting her battles with the help of others.

GREAT BRITAIN'S CONTRIBUTION.

There never yet has been a time when that was less true than in this War. Seventy-five per cent. of the contribution in men, 75 per cent. in the contribution in loss, has fallen upon England. Scotland has—as it always has—done its due share. Ireland has made a distinguished contribution, and my country also. It is my pride, and I am entitled to make the boast, that in voluntary recruiting we just beat the record by a shade. Scotland came second, in the proportion of population, who voluntarily recruited for the Army.

THE DOMINIONS.

I must say a word now about the Dominions. They have contributed between 700,000 and 800,000 men. What does that mean?—five times the number of our Expeditionary Force. And what a contribution! How well they have fought! The citizen armies! The ready and resourceful courage of the Canadians—how it saved France and the British Army at the second battle of Ypres! How, on the heights of Vimy, they swept the foe from the positions where they had defied the greatest armies of the Allies for two or three years!

And then the men of the Southern Seas, of Australia and New Zealand—the dash and the tenacity which enabled them first to capture the precipitous rocks of Anzac, and to cling to them for months; to rush Pozières and to hold Bullecourt; the men who came in smaller contingents from South Africa, clearing Delville Wood; and the noble sacrifices of the men of Newfoundland. I could not even give a catalogue of their achievements without detaining the House beyond the limits.

And then there is India. How bravely, how loyally she has supported the British arms! The memory

of the powerful aid which she willingly accorded in the hour of our trouble will not be forgotten when the War is over, and when the affairs of India come up for examination and for action. Then our Colonies throughout the world, how they have helped with the fighting men and assisted us with labour! Never has the British Empire shown greater and more effective unity. It was regarded as a dream by many; now it is a fact—a powerful fact, fashioning the history of the world and the destinies of men.

THE CAVALRY OF THE CLOUDS.

It would be invidious if I were to attempt to distinguish between the various arms of the Service—our splendid Infantry who have borne the brunt of the battle, our Cavalry, and our Artillery, who have lost more heavily, perhaps, in this War than in any war ever waged. The mere fact that we have the Artillery is in itself an achievement. Who would have believed—when you thought it took years to train gunners—that in a few months we would turn out Artillery the precision of whose fire is at once the admiration and terror of the foe?

But, amongst all these, I may be permitted to mention one arm of the Service which has appeared for the first time in the history of warfare—I mean the Air Service. I am sure the House would like special mention to be made of our Air Service. The heavens are their battlefield; they are the Cavalry of the clouds. Far above the squalor and the mud, so high up in the firmament as to be invisible from earth, they fight the eternal issues of right and wrong. Their daily, yea their nightly, struggles are like the Miltonic conflict between the winged hosts of light and of darkness. Sometimes they skim low like armed swallows hanging over trenches full of armed men, wrecking convoys, scattering infantry, attacking battalions on the march. Every flight is a romance; every report is an epic. They are the knighthood of this War; without fear and without reproach have they fought, for they have

brought back the legendary days of chivalry, not merely by the daring of their exploits, but by the nobility of their spirit. Among myriads of heroes we are specially proud of the chivalry of the air.

THE MEDICAL SERVICE.

I do not think we ought to pass by the chaplains in the Army. They have sustained their losses and have done their duty manfully, courageously and tenderly. When you come to the Medical Service, the men and the women, they have never shown greater courage, knowledge, and experience. Thousands of them have devoted themselves—devotion is the right word—to the curing of the wounded and the healing of the sick. Great consultants have given up princely incomes and volunteered for this service. Wounds have been cured which before the War were regarded as fatal, and I may give an illustration, and only one illustration, of the services they have rendered in saving life, not merely by their curing expedients, but by the precautions they have taken. In the South African War, I believe, 50,000 men died of typhoid. In France, out of our gigantic Army, during the whole three years of the War, only 3,000 have fallen victims to this disease. We owe thanks to the medical profession. They have suffered; hundreds have been killed and many more hundreds wounded.

A TRIBUTE TO OUR NURSES.

We should also thank the women, our trained and untrained nurses, whose tenderness and care for the wounded have earned thanks from the lips of hundreds of thousands of poor men whose lives have been saved, and who have been spared much suffering through their tender ministrations. They have not escaped perils. Many have been killed by shell-fire, many of them drowned in hospital ships sunk with the sign of the Red Cross upon them. We all owe them a debt of gratitude.

THOSE AT HOME.

The last paragraph in the Resolution is one I must say a word about, and it will be brief. There are hundreds of thousands of sorrowing men and women in this land on account of the War. Their anguish is too deep to be expressed or to be comforted by words, but, judging the multitudes whom I know not by those I do know, there is not a single one of them who would recall the valiant dead to life at the price of their country's dishonour. The example of these brave men who have fallen has enriched the life and exalted the purpose of the people. You cannot have 4,000,000 of men in any land who voluntarily sacrificed everything the world can offer them in obedience to a higher call without ennobling the country from which they sprang. The fallen, whilst they have illumined with a fresh lustre the glory of their native land, have touched with a new dignity the households which they left for the battlefield. There will be millions who will come back and live to tell children now unborn how a generation arose in England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales, and in the ends of the earth, where men of our race dwell, who were willing to leave ease and comfort and face privation, torture, and death to win protection for the weak and justice for the oppressed. There are hundreds of thousands who will never come back. For them there will be for ages to come sacred memories in a myriad homes of brave, chivalrous men who gave up their young lives for justice, for right, for freedom in peril. This Resolution means that the greatest Empire on earth, through this House, thanks the living for the readiness with which they obeyed its summons and the gallantry with which they supported its behests. It also means that this great Empire, through this House, enters each home of the heroic dead, grasps the bereaved by the hand, and says, "The Empire owes you gratitude for your share of the sacrifice as well as for theirs, partakes in your pride for their valour, and in your grief for their fall."

MR. ASQUITH.

MR. ASQUITH: This Resolution of thankful acknowledgment for the services both of the living and the dead requires no words of advocacy or of appeal to commend it to the House. It might, indeed, be a more impressive, and in the true sense a more eloquent, tribute if we were to pass it in silence. We are face to face in this War with acts and with emotions which are too large for speech. Everything in it—the issues at stake, the forces arrayed, the endurance of the people, the toll of losses, and the pain—everything is on a scale unexampled in the annals of mankind. The commonplaces, whether of eulogy or sympathy, even if they could be expressed as they have been in days gone by with the art of Pericles or of Lincoln, seem to be meagre and dwarfed, and, indeed, hopelessly inadequate to so great a thing. What more can we say? As we witness month by month, and now year by year, the gradual unfolding of this vast panorama of heroism and suffering, it strikes us dumb with a sense, at once overpowering and unutterable, of admiration.

UNEXTINGUISHABLE FAITH OF ALL.

We all feel here to-day that we should be departing, if not from the letter, at any rate from the spirit, of the wise precedent of our ancestors, and in some sense abdicating the duty of Parliament, if we did not from time to time convey the recognition and thanks of this House—the authentic mouthpiece of the nation—not only to our great generals and admirals—the Prime Minister has mentioned the names of the generals, and we shall all join most heartily in the tribute he paid to them—may I add the names of two great admirals, Sir John Jellicoe and Sir David Beatty, who have with consummate skill directed our fortunes at sea—but also to our soldiers and sailors, our merchant seamen, our airmen, our doctors and nurses, our fellow countrymen and countrywomen enlisted in every

Government of war work, who from all quarters of the Empire have, by their ceaseless energy and unbounded sacrifice, ensured the victory of the Allies. Among all these comrades and fellow combatants—for such they are—in the greatest of causes we make no discrimination in the degree of our gratitude. It is by their united efforts and by their unextinguishable faith the struggle has been and will be maintained till it ends, as we know it must end, in the enthronement of the sovereignty of right. Heavy indeed, as the last paragraph in this Resolution reminds us, heavy indeed is the tax in life and suffering which the Empire is called upon to pay. We have only to look round this House to recall the names and faces of colleagues whom the War has called away from us and whom we shall never see again. We who remain behind, impoverished by their loss, are yet enriched by their memory and their example. Let it not be said when the judgment of history comes to be recorded that they gave their lives in vain.

MR. JOHN REDMOND (IRELAND).

MR. JOHN REDMOND: My object rather is to emphasise the fact that in what they have said Mr. Lloyd George and Mr. Asquith have spoken for an absolutely unanimous House of Commons, and that the heart of every Member of this House, English, Scottish, Welsh, or Irish, goes out to-day in pride, admiration, and gratitude to those gallant men who are fighting in the cause of civilisation and liberty in so many parts of the world, and in the deepest veneration for the memory of the dead.

THE HEART OF THE IRISH RACE.

In addition to that perhaps it is as well on this occasion an Irish voice should be heard, and I think the House will agree that it is natural that my heart and my mind on this occasion should turn in a very special way to the Irish troops. These troops have by their constancy, their endurance, and their gallantry in every field of war shed a lustre upon their

race. However torn by dissension or by misfortune their country may be at this moment, I believe that the heart of the Irish race to-day is filled with pride and with gratitude for their achievements. The old historic Irish regiments who played their part in the battle of Ypres, to which allusion has been made, who played their part in the retreat to the Marne and in the return from the Marne, the old historic Irish regiments who were the first to land from the "River Clyde" at V. beach, and who were nearly annihilated in the operation, and who performed what their General declared to them seemed to him and to other commanders the impossible, these men have maintained at their highest the magnificent traditions of the gallantry of the Irish regiments.

THE SONS OF IRISH PARENTS.

The three new Irish Divisions which were raised for the New Army, the 10th Division, the 16th Division, and the 36th Division, at Suvla Bay, at Salonika, and on the Western Fronts, down to this moment have, I believe, been watched with the tenderest solicitude and the deepest pride by their countrymen. With the deepest pride their countrymen saw how civilians drawn from every walk of civil life were able to hold their own, and perhaps more than their own, with the trained soldier of some of the oldest and most powerful armies in the world. We Irishmen have regarded every victory of the Canadians and of the Anzacs with feelings of the deepest pride, because we feel justified in recalling the fact that from 20 to 25 per cent. of those gallant men are the sons of Irish parents.

IRISH VALOUR AND LOYALTY.

Let me say there is one very special reason indeed why I should say these words now upon this occasion. These gallant Irish troops have during the past year and a half had a new and bitter trial imposed upon them in events that have been happening in their own country. These events have not touched their valour or their loyalty. They have

remained true to their proud motto, *Semper et ubique fidelis*. But many of those men, especially those who joined the New Army, believed that they were not only going to fight in a just cause for the general principles of civilisation and of liberty, but that in a certain special sense they were going to fight for Ireland, for her happiness, for her prosperity and her liberty. Now they have seen a section, at any rate, of their own countrymen at home during the past year repudiate that idea, and then they have had brought home to them in the midst of their other trials, privations and sufferings, a new and poignant feeling of anguish. I wish it were possible for me to speak a word to every one of those men. If my words could reach them, I would say to every one of them that they need have no misgiving, that they were right from the first, that time will vindicate them, that time will show that while fighting for civilisation and liberty in Europe they are also fighting for civilisation and liberty in their own land. I would like to say to every man of them, in addition, that even at this moment, when ephemeral causes have confused and disturbed Irish opinion, they are regarded with feelings of the deepest pride and gratitude by the great bulk of the Irish race, and by all that is best in every creed and class in Ireland.

MR. J. O'GRADY (LABOUR).

MR. O'GRADY : I desire to add my voice to those already heard by the House in supporting this Resolution. As the bulk of the Army is composed of men whom in a certain sense we represent, I think a few words from these benches will not be deemed out of place. With regard to the Navy, I can add very little to what the Prime Minister and Mr. Asquith have said, except to say that I feel sure on the part of the public generally in personnel and bravery our Navy is considered to be unequalled by any Navy in the world. I welcome the bringing forward of this Motion, and think it is a good idea on the part of the Prime Minister. Our Allies, from the discussion on this Motion, will get to apprehend

what our Navy has really been doing. Reference has been made to the great silent watch upon the North Sea and the seas of the world, and I think it is true to say that people have not known the great task which the Navy has had to perform. The Prime Minister told us that it has watched every bay and every gulf and every sea throughout the world. When our enemies sometime talk about the freedom of the seas as one of the conditions of peace, it is wise at this moment to ask when the freedom of the seas has ever been in danger. That freedom has been kept by the British Navy from time immemorial, and it is keeping it to-day in the interests of the Allied Powers and in the interests of civilisation. I have seen the men of the Navy in the North Sea, and I have wondered and marvelled at their courage and pluck and vigilance and zeal.

ON THE YPRES SALIENT.

With regard to the Army, I happened to be with them upon the Ypres salient when things were bad and at a time when the only thing that stood between the enemy and the capture of that salient was men's bodies. There was no reply to the terrible hail of shot that came from the enemy's artillery and there were very few machine guns. When we recall how we lost a third of the Army there without a single fight, that men stood there, and that their bodies were smashed and mangled in the trenches, I say that the bravery of the British Army has never yet been excelled; and in saying that I am only making a simple statement of fact. When we remember that the great bulk of the men in the Army were drawn from the dockside, the railways, the mines, and factories and desks, we must admire the wonderful spirit which they displayed. The fact that those men after six months were put up against the greatest military proposition the world has yet seen, and that they fought and beat the great Prussian Guards, speaks volumes for the tenacity and courage of our race, and gives the lie direct to the German philosophers and politicians who said we were a decadent race.

THE RETREAT FROM MONS.

There is the retreat from Mons. Will the story of that heroic and magnificent effort ever be written? I do not think that the English language can find words to express adequately what happened upon that occasion. Our men fought and died, and there were less than ten thousand of the original Army left; but they left a spirit behind them and taught the boys who came from the desk and the mine and the railway how to die heroically and nobly for an ideal, and how to save their country and civilisation from overwhelming disaster. The Prime Minister has said glorious words about the men of the Mercantile Marine, but he will agree with me that mere words cannot express our admiration for their glorious conduct. At home here, which of us can say that we have been suffering in the War? Here we are in peace and security with very little sacrifice and very little suffering, and all because of the three great arms of our Services, the Navy, the Army, and the Mercantile Marine, who have kept these shores almost immune from attack. All over the country in towns and villages I have met men who have told me stories of how they had been torpedoed and escaped in open boats, and how they had been fired upon by the submarine when they tried to escape, and when they got home almost the first thing those men did was to go down to a shipping office eager again to go to sea, and eager again to save us and the country from all danger.

PRIDE IN SACRIFICE.

The relatives of those who have died to save this dear old land of ours will, I know, never be forgotten by the country. You have the widows and the mothers and the fatherless children, and I have never yet heard a single one of them regret that their men died for the cause for which they fought; but, on the contrary, they recall with pride the cause for which the men went down, and that they offered all that men can offer, and endured death and suffering, in

order that freedom and liberty might live in order that our civilisation shall be perpetuated, and in order that our whole Christian faith shall be purified and ennobled by the sacrifices they have made. In every working-class home in this country the Prime Minister and this House will be thanked for the opportunity that has been taken to record, not merely the opinion of this House, but the thanks of the country at large, to that noble Army of citizen soldiers and that great Navy of silent, courageous men and the great mercantile fleet of our country.

MR. EUGENE WASON (SCOTLAND).

MR. EUGENE WASON: As Chairman of the Scottish Liberal Members, I have been asked to say one or two words from the Scottish point of view. Let me first mention the Navy. We all recollect the gallantry of John Cornwall. Last week there was a young officer on board one of the destroyers which was torpedoed. His mother wanted him to take a life-saving jacket, but his reply was, "No, I will not put it on. I will take my chance with the men." I think that was a noble and gallant action for him to have taken, and I am glad to say that he was saved.

NO DISCRIMINATION.

So far as the Army is concerned I think there could be no discrimination as between the different troops, whether they come from England, Scotland, Ireland or Wales. I wish to make no discrimination. They have all fought well and borne their part bravely. The motto of the famous Scots Greys is "Second to None," and all I claim for Scotland, both in the Army and in the Navy or in the Mercantile Marine, where most of the engineers are Scottish, is that the men have been second to none and shown themselves second to none in their bravery and gallantry. The last word I have to say is with reference to those who have lost their nearest and dearest in this War. I do not think there is a

man here who either himself or in his friends has not been bereft of those whom he loves and those whom he would have liked to have had around him in his old age. It has been well said that this War taught the young how to die and ought to teach the old how to live. We old men who cannot go to the front ought to do all we can to help on in the prosecution of the War, and to see that the mothers and the widows and those who have been bereft and those who have been injured shall have ample means to secure something like comfort in their old age. As the Prime Minister has said, Scotland now, as always, has done its share. I am speaking not only on my own behalf, but on behalf of all the people when I say how proud we are of the part that Scotland has played in this War, and that we mean to continue to the end until victory has been secured to this country.

SIR HERBERT ROBERTS (WALES).

SIR HERBERT ROBERTS: I desire to associate Wales with the Motion which has been so adequately moved by the Prime Minister and supported by other speakers. The great lesson of this War has undoubtedly been unity, the co-ordination of all, without distinction, to the common cause. None the less, I think it is perfectly true to say that the stress of this great convulsion of war has given a new meaning and a new influence to the national characteristics of those who make up the British people. It is not, therefore, unnatural, I think, that I should also claim on behalf of Wales special reference in this Motion to the heroism of my countrymen on land and on sea, to the men who have, during the last three years, upheld the best traditions of their race. Centuries ago Wales was described as "an old, haughty nation proud in arms." I think I may say, probably in no limited sense, that the conduct of Welshmen in the various battlefields of this great war has amply vindicated that description. I feel, as other speakers have already expressed it, that it is the duty and the privilege of this House to place this definite expression of gratitude upon its Journals.

At the same time, when we consider, or try to realise, the height and depth of the sacrifice and suffering of those who have stood, and who do stand to-day, between us and the fiercest and most formidable foe that ever wielded the weapons of war, we feel how futile mere words are in the expression of our sense of lasting gratitude and of obligation. I think I may say this, too: Never has Motion ever been submitted to this House so charged with meaning and feeling as this Motion to-day. I will not endeavour to single out any special deed of heroism done by Welshmen in the course of this War. That is unnecessary. Still more would it be out of place to endeavour to compare in any way the valour of those gallant men who unitedly make up our invincible armies at the front.

THE FLOWER OF WELSH YOUTH.

But I will say this much if I may: Wales in this War has given the flower of her youth. She has given of her best. She has given those of greatest promise in intellect and in character. No man can measure the loss of life suffered by Wales from the destruction of this devastating war. May I say this, too? Wales from the outset, the real Wales, has never faltered in this great enterprise. Although further sacrifice may be demanded in the future, that will be given and endured until the triumphant end has been reached. In conclusion, may I say this further? In passing this Resolution in this historic House, which, at all events to-day, is the mouthpiece of the nation, I feel, and I think every Member of the House who is listening to me must feel, that behind the words of this Resolution there lies the consciousness and the assurance that when Peace comes we will, so far as Parliament can do it, translate our gratitude into deeds. So far as Parliament can do it, when Peace comes, we will try to

“Ring out the false and
Ring in the true.”

We will try, so far as we can, to forget

“The ancient forms of party strife”
and secure so far as we are able, those

“Nobler modes of life, and those purer laws”

upon which alone the fabric of our great State and Empire can, in days to come, be truly built. In my judgment this will be our best memorial to the heroic dead. This will be the real thanks of this House to those gallant men and women named in the Resolution who have so splendidly played their part in their ever-memorable fight for the next freedom of the world.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL CROFT.

BRIGADIER-GENERAL CROFT: I believe I am reflecting the opinion, not of any section of the community, but of the whole nation, when I say that we thank the Prime Minister for having permitted the House to do what the House has been desirous of doing for a very long time—to place on record its gratitude to the armed forces of the Crown who are sustaining this intense and long fight in such a glorious manner for the people of our Empire. There is nobody who has had the privilege, even as an amateur and a civilian, of serving in His Majesty's Army who does not realise that but for the Navy the British Army could have taken no part in this War, and the German nation at this time would have been dominating the world. There is no civilian in this country who does not realise—at least I hope there is none—that we should be starving, crying for bread at this very moment, but for the fact that the Navy has kept the surface of the ocean clear of the ships of our enemies. Therefore it seems very fit and proper that we should thank the armed forces of the Crown now, and, particularly when we remember the great sacrifices which have been already alluded to—when men are fighting and perishing—it is fit and proper that every soldier and sailor who has been defending our country and the

Empire for these months and years may know that the gratitude of this House and the gratitude of our whole race goes out to them; that we think of them with thankfulness every day and every night. This is no occasion for mourning. It is an occasion for joyful thanks for the wonderful things our Navy and our Army have done. We recall the fact that the position all along the Belgian and French frontiers, where our Armies have been fighting all this time, were positions of the enemy's choice; that for nearly three years the enemy was entirely dominating the British Army from one end of that position to the other, that its observation was so superior that, however deep our trenches were, he could look down into them and inflict casualties continuously upon our men.

THE ORGANISERS OF VICTORY.

Ever since July 1st, 1916, we have seen the change coming. We should record our thanks to those who have made this change possible, and who have worked out the greater schemes of organisation that we have seen since. We have to remember this, that in the five great offensives that have taken place since then—on the Somme, at Armentières, at Messines, at Ypres, and also during that winter on the Ancre—that on every single occasion in these offensives the British troops have stormed the strongest frontal positions which have been ever held against attacks. In addition to that fact, every single one of these offensives entailed at least five, and in some cases twelve and fourteen, minor offensives, which had to be undertaken by the British troops; so that in the something like fifty attacks since 1st July of last year, against, let us not forget, the strongest positions that have ever been occupied in war, the British troops have been successful on practically every occasion. It is only right that we should remember that the horrors modern warfare entails have never been equalled in any warfare of the past. Therefore, the men who are thanked by this Motion are not the kind of soldiers who

went gaily forth to battle in days gone by, for a little struggle which was going to take a short time, followed by a prolonged rest. They are bearing this burden day and night with extraordinarily good hope, an extraordinary belief and faith in their cause, and extraordinary confidence in the people of this country.

IMPERISHABLE PAGE IN HISTORY.

These results have been obtained in those various offensives to which I have alluded. In the earliest days, when the British Regular Army, to which so great and noble a tribute has been paid to-day, and to which I, perhaps, as one who saw them but was not of them, can also pay my tribute, one man in **every** five yards, and with no reserves at all, defeated the flower of the Prussian Army. We have good reason to remember all this, as we will in a few days hence, on the great anniversary of that day. We ought never to forget, as we shall not in generations to come, by generations yet unborn in this country, that imperishable page in our history. I do desire to emphasise this; that since those times War has become far more horrible, and our New Armies, without so much training, are sustaining the fight against the most terrible nerve-strain which mortal man has ever had to face. When we remember that in spite of that, in spite of all the infernal inventions of modern warfare, these men stand firm and have never allowed the line to be broken, I think we will all agree that our gratitude should be great.

THE GREAT NEW ARMY.

The Prime Minister to-day paid a tribute not only to our Regular Army, but to our New Army, and also to the Territorial Army. There are many homes in this country who will be glad to have that tribute to the men who had no time to put their houses in order, who were not men carved out for professional service, whose terms kept them in this country, but who, with very few exceptions, as one man,

were ready to step into the breach at a time when we had no men to turn to and when our great New Army was unarmed and untrained. It seems to me that the great lesson we have to learn is to ask ourselves here, what is the best way we can really thank our soldiers in the field? Surely the best way we can thank them is to be worthy of them; and to see that we do not weaken our support of them in this country. I believe that the country, and I am sure that the Navy and the Army, will all be rejoiced to think that we have taken this opportunity of placing on record our gratitude, which can never die, and which is given from this great assembly as representing the heart and the mind of the nation.

MR. B. E. PETO.

MR. PETO : I have been asked by the large association of the officers of the merchant service to express to the Prime Minister, the Government, and the House, the intense appreciation of the merchant service for the great honour which is done to that service by placing them side by side with the Navy and the Army and the Oversea Forces of the Crown in the vote of thanks which this House is now considering for their priceless services to the country.

THE NEW ELIZABETHANS.

I am convinced, from what I have already heard, that this discussion will be an inspiration to our merchant service, and will be an inducement—although none is really needed—to them to carry on their hazardous calling, so absolutely vital to the success of this War in the cause of liberty, and that the Prime Minister has really, in the form in which he has put this Motion, interpreted the true position and the feeling of the people as a whole. The records of the Elizabethan sailors for reckless courage and daring are a great inheritance of our Navy and our merchant service, and we now know that, high as that record is, the very soul and spirit of those great heroes, Drake, Frobisher, and Raleigh, and the others of the Elizabethan era still pervade and animate all our sailors,

whether they are officers or men, whether they belong to the Navy or the merchant service.

THEIR PART TO THE END.

It is significant that this year several Departments of State have each in their own way recognised the fact that the merchant service has reached a fresh level and a fresh distinction, and has fresh claims upon the nation it never had before. The Chancellor of the Exchequer in his last Finance Act—and the merchant service is grateful to him for it—extended to it the same concessions in the matter of Income Tax and death duties which have been accorded to the Navy and the Army. Even at the present moment in the Representation of the People Bill the Home Secretary is treating with sympathy the claims of the merchant service to have all the voting facilities which are accorded to the Navy and the Army, and the President of the Board of Trade has done much this year to remove small grievances and small inequalities and injustices which press hardly on many of the officers and men of the Merchant Service. And now, I think, I may fairly say that the coupling of the Merchant Service with the Navy, the Army, and the Oversea Forces is a fitting token of the esteem and gratitude of the nation, and one which they well deserve. They have done all that mortal men could, and I am satisfied that they will do their part to the end of this War until we secure our final victory.

COLONEL C. E. YATE.

COLONEL YATE: May I, as an old Indian officer, be permitted to say one word to associate myself with what the Prime Minister has told us regarding the doings of the Indian Army in this War? We must remember that the 70,000 men who formed the first force from India landed in France in the autumn of 1914, just about the time of the first battle of Ypres, and that they came just in time to fill up the gaps then, and to help to hold the trenches until our New Army was ready. Those men came over at a moment's notice—the first Indians, I may say, that ever

came over to fight in Europe, utterly strange and foreign to the country. We all know that Indians can stand heat, and we know, as the result of the Thibet Expedition, they can stand cold, but what Indians cannot stand is wet and cold. Now, the way those 70,000 men stuck it out there through the whole of that terrible winter of 1914-15 is a thing that should always remain in our memory for generations to come. They took their share in the trenches. I have often heard described the terrible sufferings they went through—how, when they got out of the trenches, their feet were so swollen that they could hardly crawl back to their billets; how the little Ghurkas were up to the waist in mud, and it took two men to get them out of the trenches. Well, those men stuck it all through the winter of 1914-15, and we owe them undying gratitude for what they did.

THE INDIAN ARMY.

The Infantry afterwards went to Mesopotamia. The Indian Cavalry are still in France, and will have their fourth winter there this year. Not one of those men has had leave, and yet there is not a murmur. Those Indian cavalymen have lands and have great cause to want to get home, and yet there they are. We hear continual complaints here of men not getting leave for eighteen months, yet those men have been nearly four years in France and have never had any. It is the same with the Indian Army in East Africa; the men have never had any leave, and we hear no grumbling. The Indian Army also has served in Egypt and done well there. They have also won admiration in Salonika and elsewhere. I need not say a word about Mesopotamia or as to how the Indian Forces stuck it throughout the whole siege. The country owes a great debt of gratitude to the Indian Army, and I am proud to think that they have now received this mark of appreciation.

The Question was put and agreed to.

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